

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03604 182158Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 DHA-02 H-02 SCCT-01

L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /045 W

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P 182131Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 938

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 3604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, HO (GROSS, STEVEN)

SUBJECT: W/W FATHER STEVEN GROSS

REF: WACKERBARTH/HANCOCK TELCON 8/15; TEGUCIGALPA 3096

1. CONSOFF SPOKE TO FATHER STEVEN GROSS FIRDAY AFTERNOON. HE IS NOT RPT NOT "UNDER HOUSE ARREST". HE IS FREE IN TEGUCIGALPA BUT NOT YET ALLOWED RETURN TO HIS WORK IN PROGRESO.

2. ACCORDING TO GROSS, WHEN HE WAS RELEASED BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES

AFTER HIS ARREST JUNE 26 HE WAS TOLD BY CHIEF OF IMMIGRATION, MAJOR FLORS, THAT HE COULD REMAIN IN HONDURAS BUT IF HE RETURNED TO PROGRESO HE WOULD BE DEPORTED.

3. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, CHURCH AUTHORITIES DECIDED GROSS SHOULD EVENTUALLY RETURN TO HIDAWORK IN PROGRESO. BUT FIRST HE MUST OBTAIN SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF GOVERNMENT (SALVO CONDUCTO) TO DO SO. ACCORDING TO GROSS GOVERNMENT UNWILLING ALLOW HIS RETURN BECAUSE OF COMPLAINTS FROM OPPONENTS IN PROGRESO THAT HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SUBVERSION OF CAMPESINOS AND INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS. GROSS DENIES SUCH ACTIVITIES AND CLAIMS CHARGES ARE ATTEMPT BY LOCAL CATTLEMEN TO PREVENT HIS RETURN. HE IS IN CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH HONDURAN AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT HIS RETURN TO PROGRESO.

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4. CONSOFF AGAIN ASKED GROSS ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS ARREST. HE AGAIN DENIED HE HAD BEEN MISTREATED. DENIAL OF MISTREATMENT HAS TWICE BEEN MADE BY HIM TO CONSOFF AND ONCE TO AMBASSADOR, BUT RUMORS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE TO THAT EFFECT, ESPECIALLY FROM BISHOP D'ANTONIO.

5. BEEN TOLD OF SENATOR HUMPHREY'S INQUIRY, GROSS SAID TO TELL HIM HE WAS WELL AND APPRECIATED SENATOR'S INTEREST. SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI03604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750285-0495
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750842/aaaabktd.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W FATHER STEVEN GROSS
TAGS: CASC, HO, (GROSS, STEVEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006